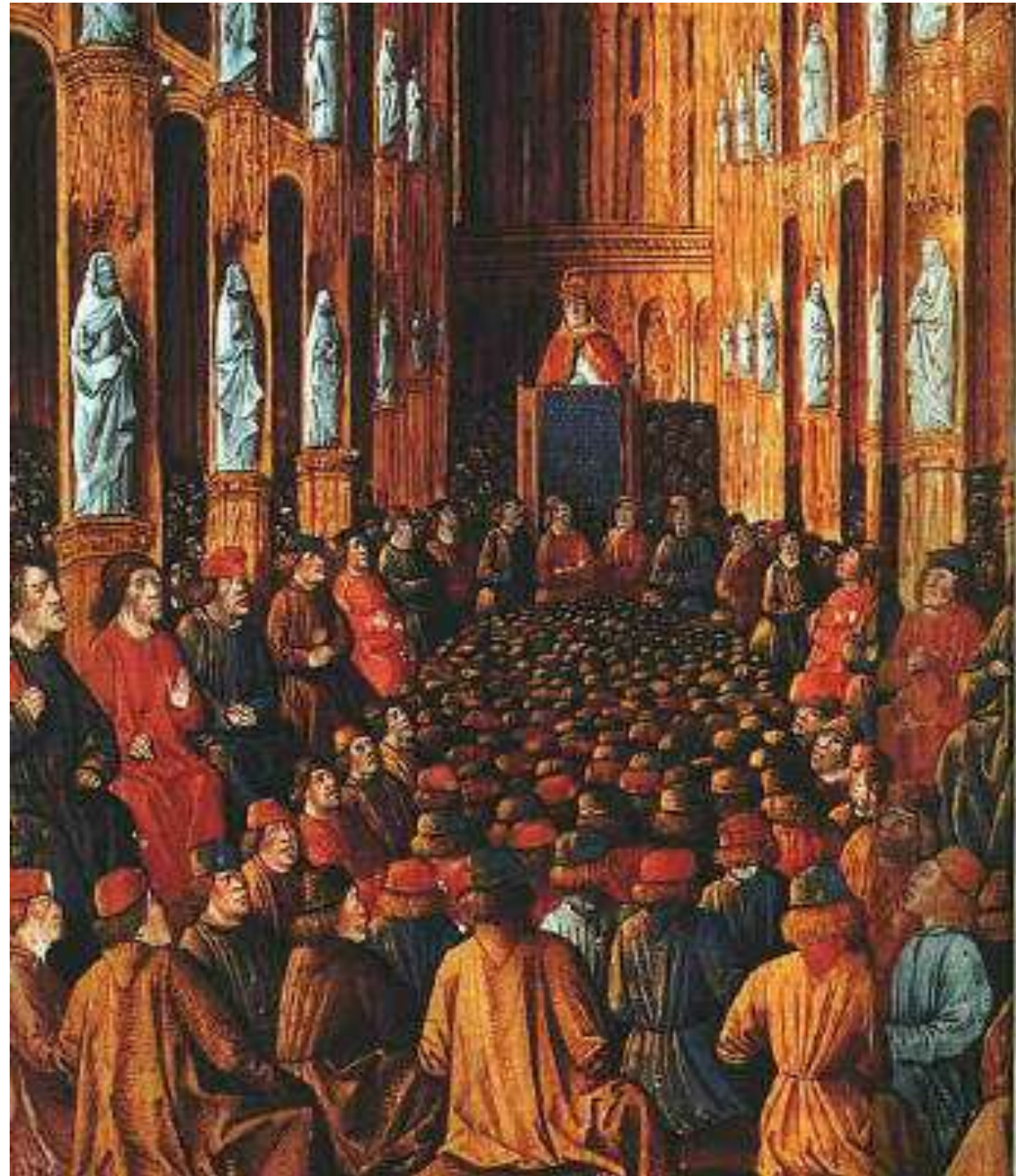


Role of the Medieval Roman Catholic Church

6-5.4: Explain the role of the Roman Catholic Church during the time of Medieval Europe



The Church Shapes Society & Politics

- Almost every one in Europe was Christian during the Middle Ages
- Christianity was central to every part of life
- Church officials (called **clergy**) used their teachings to influence European culture and politics



The Church and Society

- Life revolved around the local church
 - Markets, festivals, & religious ceremonies all took place there
- The Church encouraged **pilgrimages** to visit important religious sites in Jerusalem, Rome, and Compostela in northwestern Spain
- Example: places where Jesus had lived, where holy men & women had died, and where miracles happened



*Grand Cathedral of
Santiago de Compostela*

The Town of Canterbury, England

- Canterbury cathedral was a popular pilgrimage site near London, England
- Basis for one of the greatest books written during the Middle Ages: *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer



The Prologue

Here beginneth the book of the Tales of Canterbury.

WHEN April with his sweet showers hath pierced to the root the drought of March and bathed every vine in liquid the virtue of which maketh the flowers to start, when eke Zephyrus with his sweet breath hath quickened the tender shoots in every heath and holt, and the young sun hath sped his half course in the Ram, and the little birds make their melodies and all the night sleep with open eye, so nature pricketh them in their hearts, then folk long to go on pilgrimages and palmers to seek strange shores to the far shrines of saints known in sundry lands; and especially from every shire's end of England they journey to Canterbury to visit the holy blessed Martyr, that hath helped them when they were sick.



The Church and Politics

- Many people left land to the church when they died- making the church one of the largest landholders in Europe (divided up this land into fiefs)
- All church clergy, bishops and abbots were involved in politics
 - They often advised local rulers
 - Some were so involved with politics that they had little time dealing with church affairs

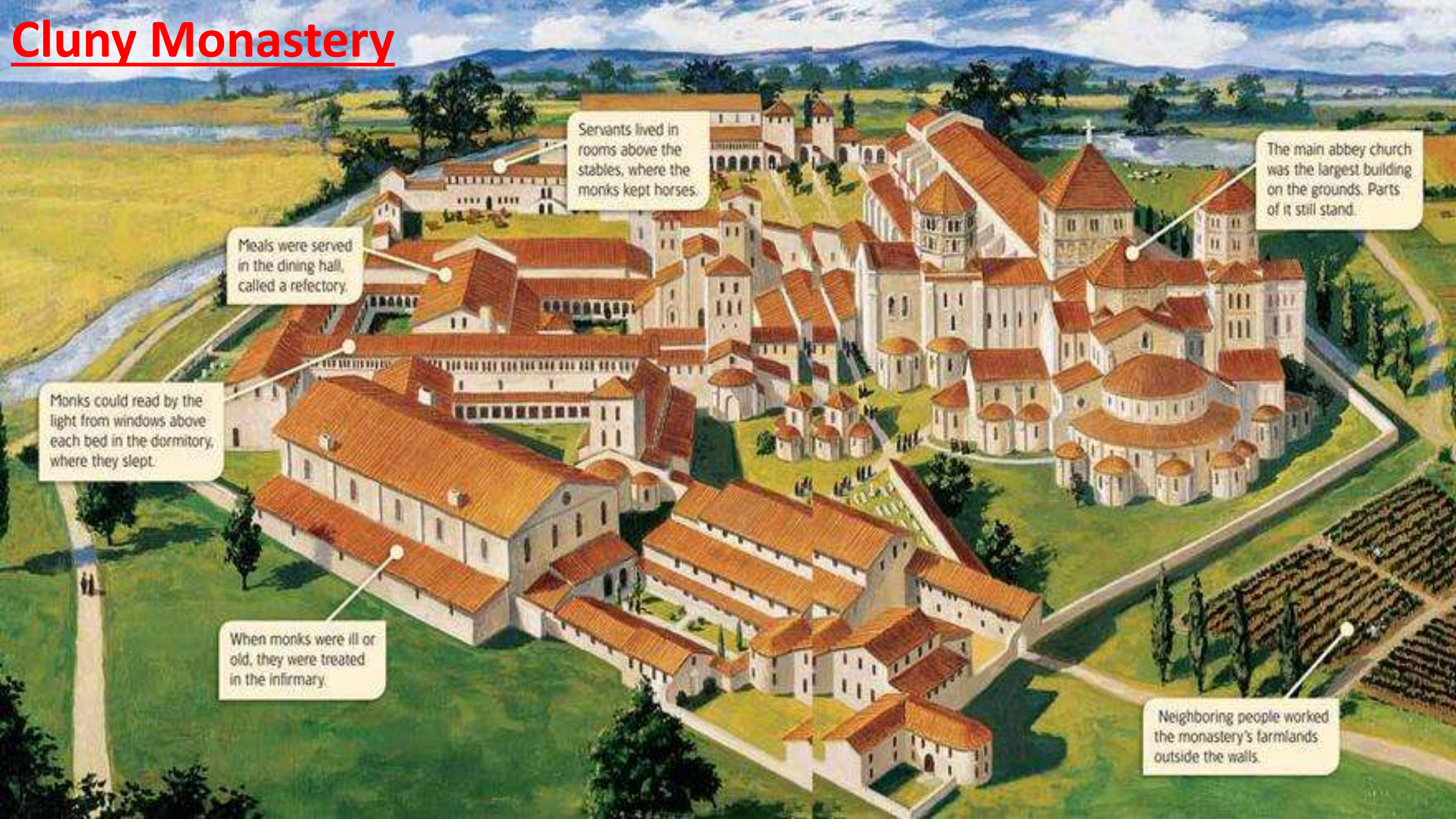


Monks & Friars

- Some people were unhappy with the church's political involvement
- Some monks of Cluny, France started a monastery in the 900s to isolate themselves from politics
 - Followed a strict schedule of prayers & religious services
 - Paid little attention to the world
 - Only worried with religious matters
- Lead to the **religious order** of monks
- They set the example of how society thought monks should live and influenced the building of monasteries across Europe



Cluny Monastery



Servants lived in rooms above the stables, where the monks kept horses.

The main abbey church was the largest building on the grounds. Parts of it still stand.

Meals were served in the dining hall, called a refectory.

Monks could read by the light from windows above each bed in the dormitory, where they slept.

When monks were ill or old, they were treated in the infirmary.

Neighboring people worked the monastery's farmlands outside the walls.

Other New Orders

- By the 1100s new stricter orders were created
 - Some took vows of silence and stopped speaking to each other
 - Others lived in tiny rooms & only left to go to church services
- Communities of **nuns** called **convents** started across Europe & lived by strict rules like the monks
- Nuns & monks lived separate and apart from society



Influence on Society

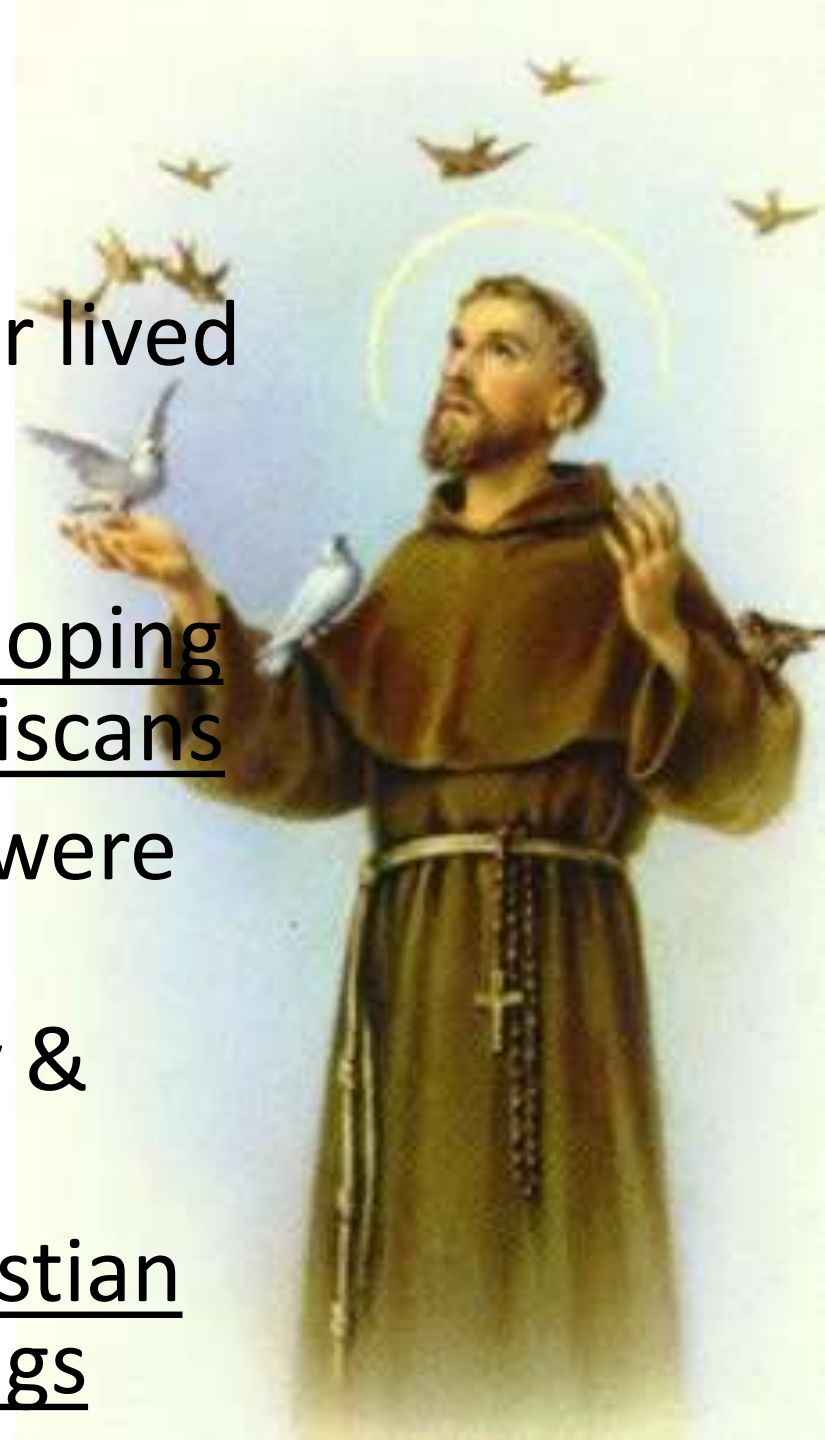
- Both collected & stored texts that explained Christian teachings
- Monks copied important documents like the *Bible* and sent copies to other monasteries
- Irish monasteries developed the *scriptorium*- becoming the heart of their monastery
- Early Christian's works were safeguarded throughout history this way



VIDEO: (5:55) Ireland's most precious artifact, containing the Four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

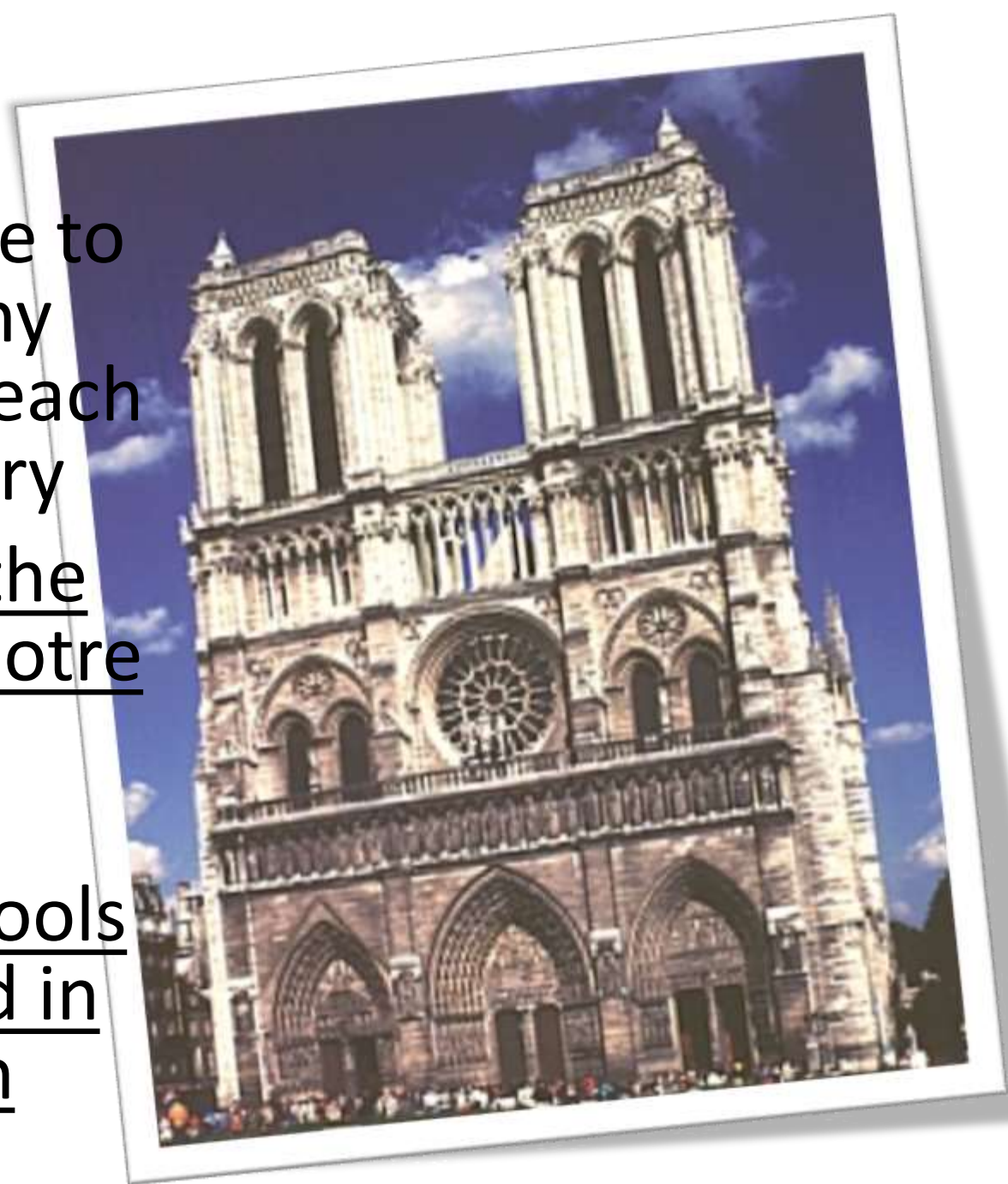
Friars

- Not everyone who joined a religious order lived apart from society, some lived in cities to spread Christianity
- Resulted in two new religious order developing in the early 1200s: Dominicans and Franciscans
- They did not live in monasteries, so they were called friars
- They lived simply and owned no property & were beggars
- They taught people how to live good Christian lives & promoted Roman Catholic teachings



Centers of Learning

- Started by Charlemagne's decree to educate boy's to be priests, many monastic centers expanded to teach many subjects by the 11th century
- The first university grew out of the monastic schools surrounding Notre Dame Cathedral
- Students were allowed to study under any teachers in these schools & degrees in theology were held in high esteem & all taught in Latin



Goal of the Roman Catholic Church & Monasteries

- Primary goal of both was to influence people to become Christians
- Monasteries main goal originally was to allow people to live holier and more dedicated lives of God



Video: (4:27)

Quick Check: True/ False

1. Women were not allowed to join religious orders.
F: Women lived in convents as nuns
2. Markets and festivals were held at the local church.
True
3. The grandest of Europe's medieval churches were called chapels.
F: they are called cathedrals

Activity

Directions: Write out your school schedule. **Compare** your schedule with the Cluny Monk's Daily Schedule.

Answer the following question:

What are the similarities and differences between the two? How do they relate to one another?

A Monk's Daily Schedule

2:30 am-Wake up

3:00 am- early prayers

5:00 am- study religious texts

6:00 am-Dawn prayers

7:30 am-Study religious texts

8:00 am-Morning prayers, church services, meeting

9:45 am-work in fields or copy books

12:00 pm- Noon prayers and mass

2:00 pm- Eat the daily meal

2:45 pm- Work in the fields or copy books

4:15 pm- Afternoon prayers

6:15 pm- Evening prayers

6:30 pm- Go to sleep

THE
PILORY



THE IRON MAIDEN



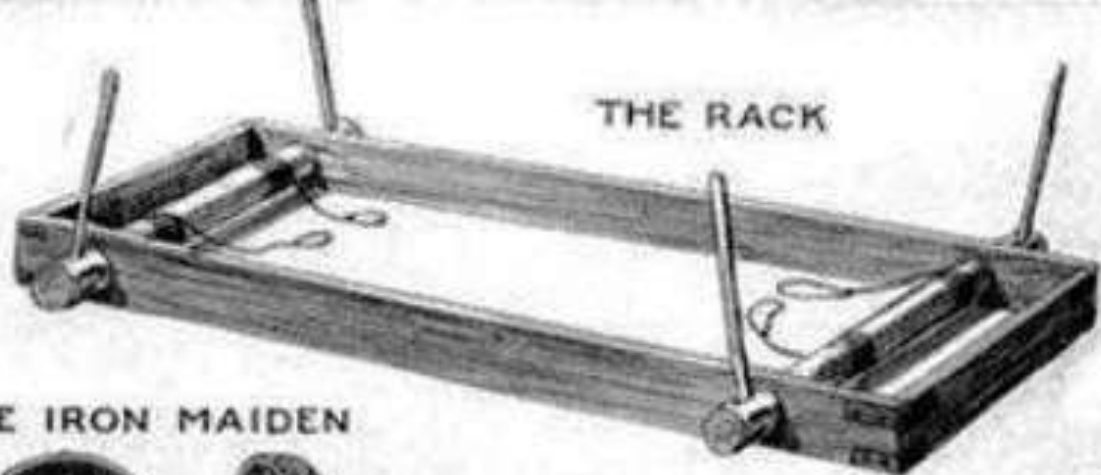
THE
SCAVENGER'S
DAUGHTER



THE
IRON
BOOT



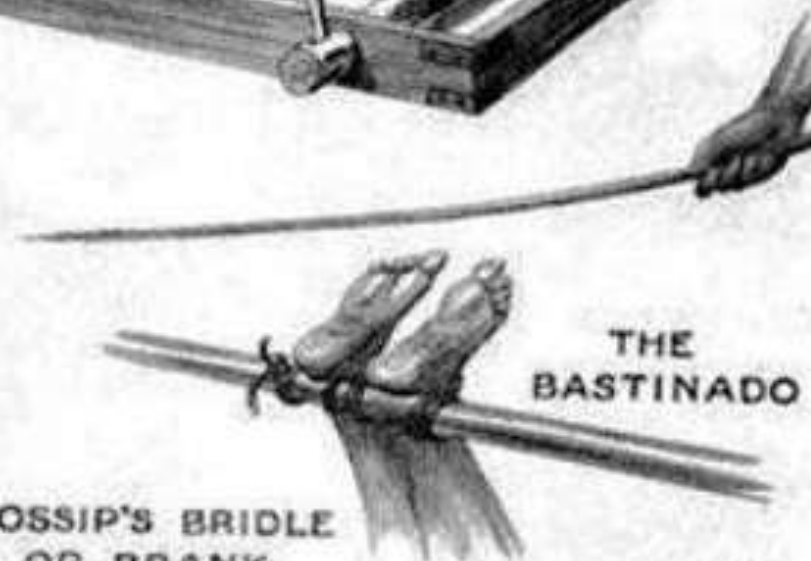
THE RACK



GOSSIP'S BRIDLE
OR BRANK



THE
BASTINADO



THE
JOUGS

